



Healthy Homes
Healthy Children

Lead Update

RI Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Month: December 2006

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In This Issue

- Fidelma Fitzpatrick Named 2006 "Lawyer of The Year"
- Neighborhood Health Plan of RI Named #1 in U.S.
- Holiday Tree and Lights Lead Warning Reminder
- Product Watch
- Lead Update New Look

**Childhood Lead
Poisoning Prevention
Program**
www.health.ri.gov/lead

Family Health
(401) 222-2312

Peter Simon, MD MPH
Magaly Angeloni, MBA
Anne Primeau-Faubert
Patricia Raymond, RN

Occupational Health
(401) 222-2438

Marie Stoeckel, MPH
Rosemary DeMitri, BS

**Environmental Health
Risk Assessment**
(401) 222-3424

Bob Vanderslice, PhD
Daniela Quilliam, MPH

Laboratories
(401) 222-5600

Ewa King, PhD

**Rhode Island
Department of Health**

3 Capitol Hill, Room 302
Providence, RI 02908

Fidelma Fitzpatrick Named 2006 "Lawyer of The Year"

Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly has named Fidelma Fitzpatrick 2006 "Lawyer of the Year," for her work in Rhode Island's litigation against the lead pigment manufacturers. Earlier this year, Ms Fitzpatrick was an instrumental part of the Motley-Rice LLP team that helped secure a Rhode Island Superior Court jury verdict finding three paint companies: Sherwin-Williams Co., NL Industries Inc., and Millennium Holdings LLC, liable for creating a public nuisance by manufacturing and selling a toxic product. The verdict followed a four-and-a-half month trial.

The landmark decision received national attention and represented the first time a jury has found lead paint manufacturers at fault for creating a public nuisance. The decision followed a trial in 2002 that resulted in a hung jury.

Jack J. McConnell Jr., lead counsel on the case, said that "Fidelma Fitzpatrick worked on the case from its inception, did the majority of the heavy lifting in the legal areas, and she was a vital member of the trial team," and added "we are very proud to announce that Fidelma was selected for this award." Today, Ms Fitzpatrick is involved in litigation related to lead paint in California, New Jersey, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The entire article can be found at: www.rilawyersweekly.com/120806.cfm

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Named #1 Medicaid Health Plan in The U.S.

The November 6, 2006 edition of *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the nation's best health plans and determined that three of the top five Medicaid health plans in the U.S. are located here in Rhode Island, including the [Neighborhood Health Plan of RI](#) (NHPRI), which was ranked #1 for Medicaid member satisfaction and quality of care, [Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island](#), and [United Health Care](#) came in second and fourth in the U.S.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance has rated Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island as this year's top Medicaid health plan in the country for member satisfaction and effectiveness of care; this marks the first time that the plan has received the top honor in the country. This is the third year in a row that the National Committee for Quality Assurance has rated NHPRI in the top 10.

For the full rankings please see www.usnews.com/usnews/health/best-health-insurance/rank_medicaid_2006.htm

Holiday Trees and Lights Lead Warning Reminder

The holiday season is quickly approaching and the Rhode Island Department of Health wants to remind parents about the potential danger of lead found in artificial holiday trees and lights.

As a precaution, the Rhode Island Department of Health encourages children and pregnant women not to handle holiday lights and artificial trees. If adults or children in the home do handle PVC plastic products, including holiday lights, make sure they thoroughly wash their hands immediately afterward. Always have children wash their hands after playing with toys and before eating.

Avoid lights that are made outside of the U.S., as these products do not have restrictions on the amount of lead contained in them. Never allow children to mouth or chew on PVC plastic wiring, electrical products, or holiday lights, as this is extremely dangerous! Chewing or mouthing the plastic may cause more lead to be released than normal.

Remember that all children under the age of six should be tested annually for lead poisoning. Lead dust from lead-based paint is the most likely source of lead poisoning in children. Always have children wash their hands after playing with toys and before eating.

Product Watch

The following product(s) may contain a dangerous amount of lead:

- **“Kool Toyz” Children's Products**
Voluntarily recalled on 11/15/06
 - **Target Stores** nationwide, and online
 - Toy Century Industrial Ltd., of Hong Kong

For more information, including photos of products please visit:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml/07/07035.html>

- **“Cars” Toy Chest**
Voluntarily recalled on 11/9/2006
 - **Toys “R” Us** nationwide from March – August 2006
 - PO#FJ50512 and PO#FJ605042 (located on side panel)

For more information please visit:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml/07/07029.html>



Lead Update New Look

If you think this edition of the Lead Update looks a little different than previous editions, you're correct!

We hope the Update is now easier to read and more user friendly. If you have any comments or suggestions about the new format, please contact Glenn Russell at Glenn.Russell@health.ri.gov or call 401-222-5932.

We Need Your Input

We are considering adding content and updating our website. As valued readers of the Lead Update we welcome your suggestions. Are there any topics you would like to see addressed on our website that are currently missing? What types of data or reports would be useful on our website? Please contact Daniela Quilliam at Daniela.Quilliam@health.ri.gov or 401-222-7730 or Glenn Russell at Glenn.Russell@health.ri.gov or 401-222-5932 with your suggestions.